

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
COUNCIL MINUTES**

May 1, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

ROLL CALL

Nehls [P] Black [P] Franklin [P] Joren [P] Gibbs [P] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance, Chief Joseph Cina, and Attorney William Willard for Mr. Cruz.

There were 30 members of the public present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (NJSACOP) –
Award of Accreditation / Police Department

Harry Delgado, Accreditation Manager for the New Jersey State Association Chiefs of Police, presented the Award of Accreditation to Chief Cina, on behalf of the Watchung Police Department. Mr. Delgado said Watchung has one of the best departments in New Jersey and probably in the Nation. Mr. Delgado congratulated the Watchung Police Department, including Lt. William Kelly, and the Governing Body for this accomplishment. Chief Cina credited former Chief Tim Wenzel for implementing this process.

APPOINTMENT OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER – Christopher Hoffmann

Council President Nehls moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

R1:05/01/14 Appointment of Probationary Police Officer – Christopher Hoffmann

Police Commissioner Nehls gave a brief synopsis of Christopher's background.

Mayor Pote then administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Christopher Hoffmann, as his mother Deanna held the Bible.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Franklin reported the Committee met today, and discussed salaries for non-union employees. He also said the budget books have been distributed and the meeting will be held on May 6th at 7 PM. At this time, only the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Department's budgets will be discussed. Councilman Franklin said there was a meeting with the Library Advisory Group and another plan received from Engineer Tom Herits was discussed. Councilman Franklin reported the Library Ad Hoc Committee will meet in early June.
2. Police – No report submitted.
3. Public Works/Buildings and Grounds - Council President Nehls reported on Wednesday the Circle was shut down for awhile due to the flooding and manhole covers were a problem again on Somerset Street. He said Bob Burns reported the flood alarm was almost at its alert level of 14.5 feet. He discussed the options for the Fire House's new generator as provided by Tom Herits and all agreed with option #2. Council President Nehls said the library needs a new roof and Bob Burns will be getting quotes on Friday.
4. Public Affairs:
Open Space – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the next meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 7 PM.

Environmental – Councilman Gibbs reported "The Queen of the Sun" movie event had to be cancelled due to the weather and they will try to reschedule. He said the Committee discussed a property on Century Lane/Valley Road which is having an addition added. He said the construction is close to a tree deemed historical by the Commission (Sugar Maple) and is 40 foot high and 40 foot in diameter. Councilman Gibbs said the Commission would like the builder to preserve this tree. Mayor Pote suggested ensuring the owner knows this and the builder is notified and the tree is well marked. Councilman Gibbs said the tree roots have already been exposed and this may cause a disease problem.

Recreation – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the next meeting will be May 7th at 7:30 PM. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming Yankee/Mets game on May 12th and said there are still tickets available, and that the Community Picnic is scheduled for May 17th from 12-3 PM with a rain date of May 18th.

Historical – Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Texier Museum will be open during the Community Picnic on May 17th. She noted Ordinance OR:14/09 on the agenda, authorizing the Historical Committee to Operate the Texier House Museum.

Board of Health- Councilman Black said the next is June 18th at 7:00 PM.

5. Fire– Councilman Black discussed a report from Chief Carlucci regarding vehicles, and said the Chief's Suburban is now out of commission due to a transmission problem, which will cost approximately \$3,100. to repair. Councilman Black said the Fire Department budget for this year is approximately \$108,000. He said the department has already spent \$5,000 to repair the #3 engine which will need additional work. Councilman Black also reported there was a joint extrication drill with the Rescue Squad.
6. Laws and Ordinance – Councilwoman Joren reported the Committee met and discussed house sizes. Planner Mark Healy was invited and he provided various options and discussed what can and cannot be done. Councilwoman Joren said it was a very productive meeting and the Committee has asked the Engineering Department to provide a list of tear downs and rebuilds. Mayor Pote said this is a very important issue in town.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer – Council President Nehls reported that the rock wall has another issue, this time behind the Police Department, but fortunately the netting kept the rocks in. He said it is believed this was a result of the extraordinary amount of rain on Wednesday. Council President Nehls said Johnston Soil should look at the netting, and Mayor Pote he had discussed the situation with Engineer Arlene McCoy who said the netting did retain the rock, but the rod within the netting looked like it may have been compromised. She also recommend that the growth within the netting be cut back. Mr. Atkins said Johnston Soil is scheduled to come to the next Council meeting on May 15th.
8. Police – No report was submitted.
9. Fire Department – No report was submitted.
10. Rescue Squad- No report was submitted.
11. Emergency Management – No report was submitted.
12. Attorney– Attorney Willard had no report.
13. Clerk – Mrs. DeRocco reported the local school invited the Mayor, Council and all employees to the annual "Narratives of Courage" event on May 14th and possibly employees could take turns going. She said there are many excellent speakers and various topics scheduled for the event. Ms. DeRocco also said she received a call from Dave Mobus requesting support for the Jerry Mobus Scholarship, and noted the deadline was extended to May 12th.
14. Administrator - Tom Atkins reported the new Administrative Assistant Shelini Parikh will be starting on Tuesday, May 6th in the Clerk's office. He also said there is Employee Practice Liability training on May 6th for Department heads and on May 9th Office Safety training for all employees.

Councilman Gibbs said he will not be available for the Tuesday budget meeting because he will be away on business, but he will call in and participate by phone.

Mayor Pote said that he, Lynn Franklin, and MaryAnn Hance went to Mobus Field today to put up the "No Smoking on Borough Property" signs, along with help from Public Works. Clerk DeRocco said the Board of Education Administrator Charisse Gutierrez and Dr. Resko have authorized the placement of signs at Phillips Field, and advised no formal resolution would be required.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one from the public desired to be heard.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda Items listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Nehls and a second by Councilwoman Joren and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

Approval of the following Council minutes:
April 17, 2014 as revised

Prior to the vote Clerk Michelle DeRocco advised the Council had received a revised copy of the April 17th which is what they will be voting on.

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Recreation Commission Minutes - March 11, 2014
Watchung Historical Committee Minutes – March 12, 2014
Watchung Historical Committee – 2013 Annual Report, 2014 Strategic Plan
Tax Collector Report – March, 2014

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #11 - Township of Berkeley Heights 4/23/14 Notice of Public Hearing on proposed Land Use Ordinance c: M & C, TEA, TH, Pl. Board
- #12 - Somerset County Planning Board 4/21/14 Resolutions (3) adopting the County Investment Framework, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the Trends and Indicators Report, as part of the Somerset County Master Plan Update c: M & C, TEA, TH, Pl. Board
- #13 - Township of Warren, Township of Bernards 4/28/14 Resolutions opposing Assembly Bill A2621 that would authorize County Government to appoint County Assessors for Taxes C: M & C, TEA, EK
- #14 - Andy Baldassarre 4/25/14 Letter of resignation as a member of the Recreation Commission C: M & C, TEA

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: Consent Agenda resolutions R2, R3 and R5 were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Nehls and a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye." Councilman Gibbs requested R4 be read separately.

R2:05/01/14 Resolution Opposing Proposed Legislation Authorizing a County Government to Appoint a County Tax Assessor or Mandate the Transfer of a Municipal Function to the County without Municipal Authorization.

R3: Purchases Over \$2,000. – Grove Lock & Safe, Lawmen Supply Co. of N.J.

R4: Authorize Appointment of Administrative Assistant – Shelini Parikh

R5: Appointment to Village Center Preservation Commission – Anthony Addario

Councilman Gibbs moved R4 with a second by Councilwoman Joren and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Nehls, Black, Franklin, Joren, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, "aye."

Councilman Gibbs welcomed Shelini to our Borough "family" and wished her well. Mayor Pote said he is looking forward to Shelini coming aboard.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

Proposed Ordinance OR:14/08 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7-15, TITLED 'PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS', OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PROHIBITING PARKING ON LAKEVIEW TERRACE, MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD AND WASHINGTON DRIVE" was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered.

R6:05/01/14 Introduction of OR:14/08 – Amend Code / Prohibited Parking: Portions of Lakeview Terrace, Mountain Boulevard, and Washington Drive

Proposed Ordinance OR:14/09 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-43.4, TITLED “POWERS AND DUTIES GENERALLY”, OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG TO AUTHORIZE THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE TO OPERATE THE TEXIER HOUSE MUSEUM” was introduced. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and directed the Clerk to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing.

R8: Authorize Execution of Employment Agreement – Watchung PBA / January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016

05/01/2014